

REMARKS

Claims 21, 22 and 27 have been amended, 30 and 31 have been cancelled and new claims 32 and 33 have been added; thus eleven claims remain pending: claims 21-29 and 32-33.

Examiner Interview

Applicants appreciate the Examiner taking time to discuss, on January 10, 2006, the pending claims with the first named inventor, Glen Tindal, and Applicants' representative, Sean O'Dowd. During that meeting, the prior art and embodiments of the claimed invention were discussed.

In particular, the Cisco reference was discussed, and during discussions relative to the Cisco reference, the Examiner indicated that the Cisco reference, as a whole, corresponds to Applicants' recited configuration record. In response, Applicants' have amended independent claims 21 and 27 to clarify the substantial differences between the recited "configuration record" and the Cisco reference. For example, claim 21 has been amended to recite:

gathering information from at least one source that uniquely and generically indicates desired capabilities of the network device;

obtaining actual-configuration data for the network device, wherein the actual-configuration data corresponds to existing capabilities of the network device; and

altering the actual-configuration data in accordance with the gathered information so as to generate a ~~into~~ configuration record for the network device;

wherein the configuration record represents a physical configuration for the network device that enables the network device to provide the desired capabilities.

Applicants submit that neither the Cisco reference nor the Jacobson reference teach gathering information "that uniquely and generically indicates desired capabilities of the network device." Moreover, these references do not teach obtaining and altering existing

configuration data in accordance with the gathered information to generate a configuration record that represents a physical configuration for the network device that enables the network device to provide the desired capabilities.

In particular, Applicants submit that the amendments clarify that the combination of the Cisco reference and the Jacobson reference do not suggest the recited “configuration record.” Specifically, the Cisco reference as a whole can not correspond to Applicant’s configuration record because the Cisco document is simply instructions to initially configure a switch, and as a consequence, the Cisco reference does not “represent a physical configuration” for a network device.

With respect to the Jacobson reference, Jacobson claims translating a generic network command to one or more specific commands for a particular device (Jacobson, claim 1), and teach that their configuration files provide information to monitor and control their devices and include information to convert parameter changes for their transmitters and receivers into commands (Jacobson, Col. 7, lines 16-22), but Jacobson does not teach generating a “configuration record” that “represents a physical configuration for the network device that enables the network device to provide” desired capabilities.

In other words, Applicants’ “configuration record” represents a “physical configuration of a network device that provides desired capabilities,” and in contrast, Jacobson’s configuration files merely provide information to monitor and control their devices and to “map commands” from their management component 156 to their devices (Jacobson, Col. 6, lines 60-65). Thus, Jacobson’s configuration files can not correspond to Applicants’ configuration record.

In addition, Jacobson's configuration files can not correspond to Applicants' configuration record for the additional reason that Jacobson does not teach generating their configuration files by altering actual configuration data. In fact, Applicants are unable to find any teaching in Jacobson that their configuration files are altered at all.

The bottom line is, the combination of the Cisco reference and Jacobson would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at Applicants' claimed method. Specifically, when combined, the Cisco reference, which is merely an instruction guide describing how to initially configure an ATM switch, and Jacobson, which teaches translating generic network commands to specific commands, does not suggest Applicants' method for generating a configuration record. As a consequence, Applicants request a favorable reconsideration of claim 21 and claims 22-26, which depend from claim 21.

With respect to independent claim 27, Applicants have made amendments similar to those outlined above with reference to independent claim 21, and as a consequence, Applicants also submit claim 27 is allowable for many of the reasons outlined above. For example, neither the Cisco reference nor the Jacobson reference suggest a Applicants' configuration record.

In addition, neither the Cisco reference nor the Jacobson reference teach generating a configuration record by combining the first configuration data and the second configuration data into a configuration record for the network device. For example, Applicants are unable to find any teaching within Jacobson that their configuration files are generated by combining first configuration data (that uniquely and

generically indicates desired capabilities) with second configuration data that includes information about how the network device is currently configured.

As a consequence, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of independent claim 27 and dependent claims 28-29 and 32-33.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that no further impediments exist to the allowance of this application and, therefore, request an indication of allowability. However, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any question or comments arise.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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Respectfully submitted,

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